GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2971
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
CREATION OF RESERVE FORESTS FOR ELEPHANTS
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that elephants are creating havoc to crops, particularly paddy in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for creation of Reserve Forests for the elephants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance to be provided to the villagers whose paddy has already been destroyed by the elephants?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BALLU)

(a) Yes Sir, There have been instances of damage to agricultural crops by wild elephants in various States including West Bengal.

(b) & (c) Government of West Bengal has already notified two Elephant Reserves, viz. Eastern Dooars Elephant Reserve (in the northern region) and Mayurjharna Elephant Reserve (in the southern region), in there State. There is no proposal under consideration for the creation of any other Elephant Reserve in West Bengal.

(d) Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Government under Project Elephant for undertaking various measures for controlling depredation by wild elephants and for payment of ex-gratia relief to the villagers against loss of human life and crops. During the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 90.5 lakh has been sanctioned under Project Elephant for West Bengal, of which Rs. 25 lakh is meant for anti-depredation measures and Rs.15 lakh for ex-gratia relief. In addition, the State Government also provides relief to the villagers from its budget.